

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

August 27, 2014

The Honorable Shaun Donovan  
Director  
The Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director:

We are writing to express our concern about the resources that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will need to fully implement the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). In the four years since FSMA was enacted, Congress has provided some of the funding necessary for FSMA implementation, but much more funding will be required to make the larger, up-front investments necessary to ensure the public-health benefits the law promises.

For the past five years, the President has included in his budget a request for registration fees to partially fund the FDA's food safety program. Last year's budget also included a separate fee for imported food. As you know, Congress has rejected the Administration's last two requests to provide for the implementation of FSMA through user fees. No bill to authorize such fees has been introduced and even if enabling legislation is introduced this year, it is highly unlikely that any new law will be enacted in time to fund these vital FSMA implementation steps.

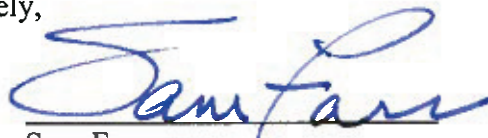
Once the major rules are completed in the upcoming year, FDA will require additional funding to fully implement FSMA. Therefore, to fully fund this important public health priority, we urge you to include a request for much higher budget authority for FSMA implementation in the President's FY2016 budget.

It is imperative that OMB expeditiously review the re-proposals related to produce safety and preventive controls for processed foods, the pending re-proposal of the draft rule on the Foreign Supplier Verification Program for imports, and the final rules when they are ready so that they are released for comment later early this fall. A wide range of stakeholders, including Members of Congress who championed FSMA, want to see the implementing regulations finalized by the end of 2015, a deadline established by court order. The food industry needs regulatory certainty, and consumers and public health leaders want effective new regulations to be in place as soon as possible in order to reduce the number of preventable foodborne illnesses.

We appreciate your timely response to our request.

Sincerely,

  
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress

  
Sam Farr  
Member of Congress